

A true discourse. of the  
*late voyage made by the Right Wor-*  
shipfull Sir Thomas Sherley the yonger, Knight:  
on the coast of Spaine, with foure Ships and two Pinnasses: no  
lesse famous and honourable to his Country, then to him selfe  
glorious and commendable. Wherein is shewed the taking  
of three townes, *Boarco, Tanaredo and Fyguaro,*  
with a Castle and a  
Priorie,

VVritten by a Gentleman that was in  
the Voyage.



L O N D O N,  
Printed for Thomas Pauyer, and are to solde at  
the signe of the Cat and two Parrets, neere the Royall  
Exchange. 1602.

A THE CHURCH OF THE

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As much as heretofore sundry ru-  
mours and reports have bene spred a-  
broad of the taking of Gyblatar, and  
Aymounte in Spaine, by Sir Thomas  
Sherley the younger. It is not altoge-  
ther impertinent to make the truth  
knowne of the said voyage, as well for  
the better satisfaction of all such as are  
desirous to be resolved of the truth, as  
also for the encouraging of other Gentlemen, desirous to ho-  
nour their country with their trauailes, and to win perpetu-  
all fame and credit to themselves, by shewing their valour  
vpon the common enemy of God, and their Country, and on  
such as are the Generall disturbers of all tranquillity and  
peace in Christendome.

This young Knight (having made prouision of foure  
Shippes and two Pinnasses: to wit, the Dragon, whereof  
himselfe was Captaine, and Admerall: the Lyon, whereof



was Captaine a young Gentleman called M<sup>r</sup>. Tho. Sherley Vice-admiral: the George, whose Captaine was Captaine Flood and Keare-admirall: the Virgin commanded by Captaine Nichols: the Katherin by Captaine Pouye: and the Pan by Captaine Cobden:) having I say sufficiently provided, munition, and furnished these five Ships, with Mariners, victuals, and all other necessaries fit for his pretended voyage, with 900. Land men, to the great charge of the sayd Sir Thomas and others his friends: The Ships for want of commodious windes lay long at Hampton and the Cowes before they could put to Sea.

Thursday being the first day of Aprill 1602. the whole Fleet put to Sea from the Cowes about seaven of the clocke in the morning, the winde being North-west: the next day we were athwart Dartmouth, the weather faire, and the winde North-west.

Satterday the third day, the winde scanted at South, we met with five saile bound for Rochell, whereof 4. were English, and the other two Dutch Ships.

Sunday the fourth day, we had the winde South buttill it was noone, and then it came to the West North-west. The same night Captaine Cobden absented himselfe with the Pan, not bidding the Admirall adieu. The 5. day was faire weather, but the winde opposite at South-west.

Tuesday the sixth day, was a mighty storme at South South-west, and the same night we lost the company of the Lyon.

Wednesday the 7. day, the storme continued, and the same day the Virgin spent her Rudder, & the Dragon took a leak, whereby our Admirall was forced to put Roome.

Thursday the 8. day of Aprill, the Fleet put in at Falmouth, the storme continuing with great extremitie, and contrariety of windes untill the 17. day, meane while our Admirall went to Plimmouth to relieue some wants.

Friday, being the 9. day, the Lyon came into Falmouth extremely



freemly weather-beaten, & discharging a peece to salute the Castle, the same brake and killed two of her men, hurt diuers others, toze her deckes, & brake her Maine-yard.

Friday the 18. day, our Admerall sent the Batherin to Plim-mouth for the Span: the same night the winde came faire at north & north northeast, but our Admirall attending h<sup>e</sup> returne of the saide two Pinnasses vntill the 20. day at noone, the wind scanted: & the 21. day was so great a tempest at Southwest, that we were forced to put in at Plimmouth.

On Thursday being the 27. day, our Admirall discovered a faction stirred by foure of his Land Captaines: to wit, Captaine Alley, Captaine Goare, Captaine Fitzhuse, Cap-taine Dalby, and a Leifetenant: which at the first our Ad-mirall appeased (as he thought) but after ward, on Fryday fol-lowing, the fire was againe kindled, so that they forsooke our Admirall: whether that it was that they had been soze wea-ther-beaten, or vnwilling to endure any further tryall of such a voyage, or any other dislike I know not, but how soeuer it was, 400. of our men (by their ensample) forsooke the Admi-rall also: but himselfe (not any thing at all therewith dis-mayed) proceeded with a stoute resolution, according to the first Intent.

Satterday being the first of May at midnight, the winde came faire, but Sir Thomas could not get his men aboard vntill two of the clocke after midnight. The third and fourth dayes the winde Southwest with faire weather. The fift day was calme, wee met with Roswell the Marchant in a Shippe of Douer laden with Spaniards, which had bin taken, and were againe sent into Spaine. Our Admirall (sitting his companies) found that he had left 40 of his men a shære such as had no intent to follow the Captaines which had so; taken the voyage. All this night the winde was Southwest with a bon gaelle, vntill Thursday the 5. day about noone, and then it came into the North and by West: the 7. 8. & 9. dayes faire weather. The 10. day we spake w<sup>th</sup> a man of Roine, whom  
(after

(after some conference) wee suffered to depart in peace: wee doubled the Cape in the after noone, where Roswell with his Spaniards departed from vs.

On Tuesday the 11. day, wee intended to haue landed at Auero, but finding the difficultie thereof, by reason of the bar, we forsooke, and turned our purpose to Boarco, a towne bigger then Plimmouth.

Thursday the 13. day, faire weather: this day wee hulled all day within sight of land, and about 12 of the clocke in the night we landed 400. men in a sandy Cause, halfe a mile from the towne, with such silence, that our Mauntguard, and Sir Thomas himselfe being on shoare two houres at the least, before the rest came, the towne took no allarum: about 3. of the clocke in the morning we entred the towne, and took it without any resistance.

Friday the 14. day, about 9. of the clocke in the morning, there appeared certaine bandes: whercupon one of the Captains (whome Euphonix gratis I spare to name) possessed the companies w<sup>th</sup> such a feare (I know not vpon what vain imagination) that they retyed from the towne some half mile, so that our Admeral had much to do with many perswasions to cause the to returne, wherby they of the towne had gained sufficient time to carry & couney away their best goods: and at his comming back, the enemy was growne much stronger vpon the hills. Then Sir Tho. drew out 3. Ancients with some 200. men: to wit, his own, Captaine Vachans, Capt. Carpenters, Captaine Sherleys and Captaine Caresbyes, and made a stand with the Colours, sending Captaine Pouy, Captaine Catesby, and Captaine Rigges with 40. shot and 20. pykes, to skirmish with the enemy. At the first encounter the enemy fled: the said Captaine (chasing them a mile and a halfe) found a Castle on the Sea side, which vpon the first attempt they forced and tooke: from thence they marched halfe a mile further, to a smal towne called Tauaredo, wherin was great store of wheate, wine & fish: the same night we retired to our ships.

Saturday

On Saturday the 15. day in the morning we landed againe a mile from Tauaredo with 250. men, 500. at the least of the enemies looking on while we marched to Tauaredo; where (after guardes set vpon all the aduennes of the Towne) Syz Thomas sent Captaine Pouie, Captaine Ruggs, and Captain Carpenter, to discover the Countrey, accompanied with some 60. souldiers, (Captaine Symms being left in the Towne, to see fish and wine shipped for our prouision) Syz Thomas himselfe with Captaine Sherley, and Captaine Hawkins, and 40. souldiers, went to a Pyozie which stood halfe a mile from the Towne, but when they came thither, they found the same abandoned, and nothing left, but bookes and pictures onely.

The Captaines before named which were sent to discover, marched two miles to a Towne called Fyгурao, which they took, the Earle therof with all his neighbours being fled. Our Vauntguard was here much engaged, environed with 300. men in Armes. They sent to our Admirall to relieve them, which he accordingly accomplished with 60. men, whereof Captaine Sherley, accompanied with Catesbie and Hawkins, marched in the Vaunt with 30. men, and Syz Thomas with Captaine Androwes in the Reare, with other 30. But for their retreat, M. Keuer with 20. men was left beside the Banasterie, to make the same good. With these few men Captaine Pouie was relieved with a good retreat, skirmishing perpetually, and ever beating the enemy, whose forces continually encreased, and yet we carried away such needfull prouision as we found in Tauaredo, notwithstanding we were continually beset with allarums by great troups both of horse and foote, yet would the enemy neuer make good any bzanado, but still fled at the first encounter.

About thre of the clocke there came one to Syz Thomas with a flagge of truce, whose request was to forbear to fire Tauaredo. But he was answered that all the thre places should be syzed, if within one houre they did not deliuer 20. hostages, which should undertake for the raunsome of the thre



Townes, to be paide the next day by none. The Agent returned within his heure, offering to bring Hostages the next morning. But our Admirall (not a little moued) returned him with a scozefull and sterne visage in stead of an answer, and then (after we had carried aboard such provision as we thought good, and suffered our men to pillage what they could) we began to fire the Towne. At which very instant there came a Gentleman to Syr Thomas, called Don Iohan de *na*, who offered five hostages for the rancome of the Townes. Syr Thomas was contented, so that himselfe would then remaine for one, and that the other foure should be with him within halfe an houre. Don Iohan stayed, but the rest refused to make good his word, saying that the other foure should come in the morning. By this time the Countrey was growne very hotte, for which way soeuer we looked, we might behold armed troupes, of 1000. or 500. in a company at least, by all mens iudgement between 3. and 4000. men in view, so as our Admirall with his company was now besieged. Whereupon we marched three miles along the Sea side, sounding our Drums all the way, and our boats following as neare the shore as they could, the enemy notwithstanding his great multitude, not once daring to offer any alarm or other impediment while we thus marched from him.

By two of the clocke in the morning our men were all boated, though with small profit, yet not without great honor, Syr Thomas refusing to enter into the last boate, untill hee had seene the last man in before him: and (his ship lying farthest out) he was thereby in great danger to haue bene drowned, for a myst rising, dimmed so the light which was hanged out of his ship, that the same could not be discerned, the winde being most boysterous with a great storme, his boate rowed two miles into the Sea, and there rode two houres untill five of the clocke, that the myst began to breake vp.

Sunday the 16. day in the morning, the Inhabitants of Boarco wrote very submissiuely vnto Syr Thomas, humbly entreating

entreating him that he would no more land his people to bere  
poore miserable men. This afternone Don Iohan de Pyna  
made a writing to the admiral, declaring (that vpon the earnest  
request of al the inhabitants of the Countrey) he was come vnto  
him as their Orator, wherevpon Sir Thomas set him free  
on shore, and departed thence.

Monday, we had the winde at West with faire weather.

Tuesday the 18. Wednesday the 19. faire weather, the  
winde North-east. This day we determined to goe to the Isles  
of Canares, to take Garrechico.

Thursday the 20. day, the said enterprize was found to be  
full of difficultie, by reason that we vnderstood that the plague  
raigned there extreamly, and therefore we altered our purpose,  
and determined to attempt Aymounte. This day and the next  
the winde blew very high at North North-east.

The 21. day we met with a flete of Danes, whom (af-  
ter some speeches & examinations) we suffered as friends quiet-  
ly to depart, and the same night we doubled the Cape S. Vin-  
cent. Saturday the 22. calme.

The same day was spent in consulting, and labouring to  
preuent many disorders which hapned in our former landings.

Sunday the 23. day, the wind was East. Monday the 24.  
calme weather. Tuesday the 27. day, we met with Captaine  
Iolliff, who reported vnto vs that the Quenes ships had met  
with the Spanish flete.

Wednesday the 28. day, we landed at the watering  
place in the Bay of Langurst to refresh our selues, but wee  
found it abandoned and nothing left.

Thursday the 29. day, (the winde being at North) wee  
rowd backe againe for Aymounte. Friday about 10. of the clock  
in the night, we anchored at the Barre south of Aymounte, and  
had that night attempted the Town but for two impediments.  
The one was, for that the Lyon (wherein were 3. of the land  
companies, being a most Lee-ward Cart) anchored so farre off,  
that her men could hardly reach the Towne before day.

The other was, for that the Virgin struck vpo the Barre, and could not be gotten off befoze day, by reason whereof we discovered our selues befoze we could land, wherefoze on the Sunday following we determined to attempt Alguero, a Towne and way betweene Lagos and Aymonte.

Tuesday being the first of June, and Wednesday the second, we had faire weather, the winde for the most part at North. Thursday morning abut 7. of the clocke, we landed two miles to the Westward of the Towne, and marched directly vnto the enemy, making many shewes by the way, but durst not once offer to fight with vs, neither did we profer any skirmish, because we had an other errant. But being approached the towne, we found it to be the strongest small place that euer we had seene: for it is situate vpon a Rock, which containeth no more ground than the circuite of the towne, having 3. walles one within the other. Notwithstanding Sir Thomas desirous to try his fortune, if perhaps any good successe might haue happened according to his desire, sent Captaine Vachan and Captain Norris with 30. shot and 20. pikers, to entertain a skirmish on that side the Towne where all his men were embattailed, whilst Captaine Pouie and Lieutenant Huggens were appointed to discover the Towne round, but they found it of like strength euery where, and exceedingly well manned: for all the gentlemen of the country thereabouts were drawn thither for the defence therof. Wherevpon we retired, but by the way we entertained diuers small skirmishes with the enemy, who offered many braues, but would endure nothing: in which fight we lost one man, and an other was hurt. But afterwards by conference vpo exchange of prisoners, we were credibly enformed, that our Ordnance had shrewdly torn that side of the towne toward the Sea ward, and killed many of their men, besides sundry which we had slain & hurt in the skirmishes.

Our Admirall (being returned from this place) called all the Captaines and Maisters to counsell, and finding that the alarm was so hot in Spaine and Portugall, all along the Sea coast,



coast, were without all hope to do any present good there: resolution was taken to goe to Gratiola, to repaire our victualles, and to refresh our men, whereof many were sicke.

Satterday and Sunday we had faire weather. Monday the 7. day, was a great storme at North-west, which continued Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, being the 11. day, at what time y<sup>e</sup> storme had brought vs to the Northwards of the Burlings.

Saterday the 12. day, the wind being at South-west, we appointed to go to y<sup>e</sup> Isles of Bayon to water (all hope of Gratiola being cut off) and so intended to haue taken some small towne there for our refreshing.

Sunday the 13. day faire weather, the wind was at south south-west: the next day so likewise. And then we were within sight of the Islands, but so far Leeward, that we could not fetch them: neither was it ill for vs, for our Admirall (examining our strengths) found more the three parts of our men to be extreemly sick, & our drink almost consumed, for he had but foure tunns of Beere left in his owne ship for 260. men, wherof 190. at least were grievously sicke.

Hereupon by generall aduice and consent of all our Captaines and Paissers, on Tuesday being the 15. day of June, we directed our course for England. The 16. day we chased a ship into the Groyne, and the next day 5. other ships into the same place, the night following being exceeding stormie, with a south-west wind, the Lyon, the George, and the Dragon, lost each of them a boate, and the Lyon spent her top Mast.

Thus after a tedious and vnprofitable voyage (though famous and honourable to our English nation) the ships arrived at Hampton the 10. day of June, 1602. not without good boote and pillage gotten by the Harriners and souldiers. For which the Almighty God (the chiefe gouernour and director of all things in this world) be blessed and praised. Amen.

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cut away)

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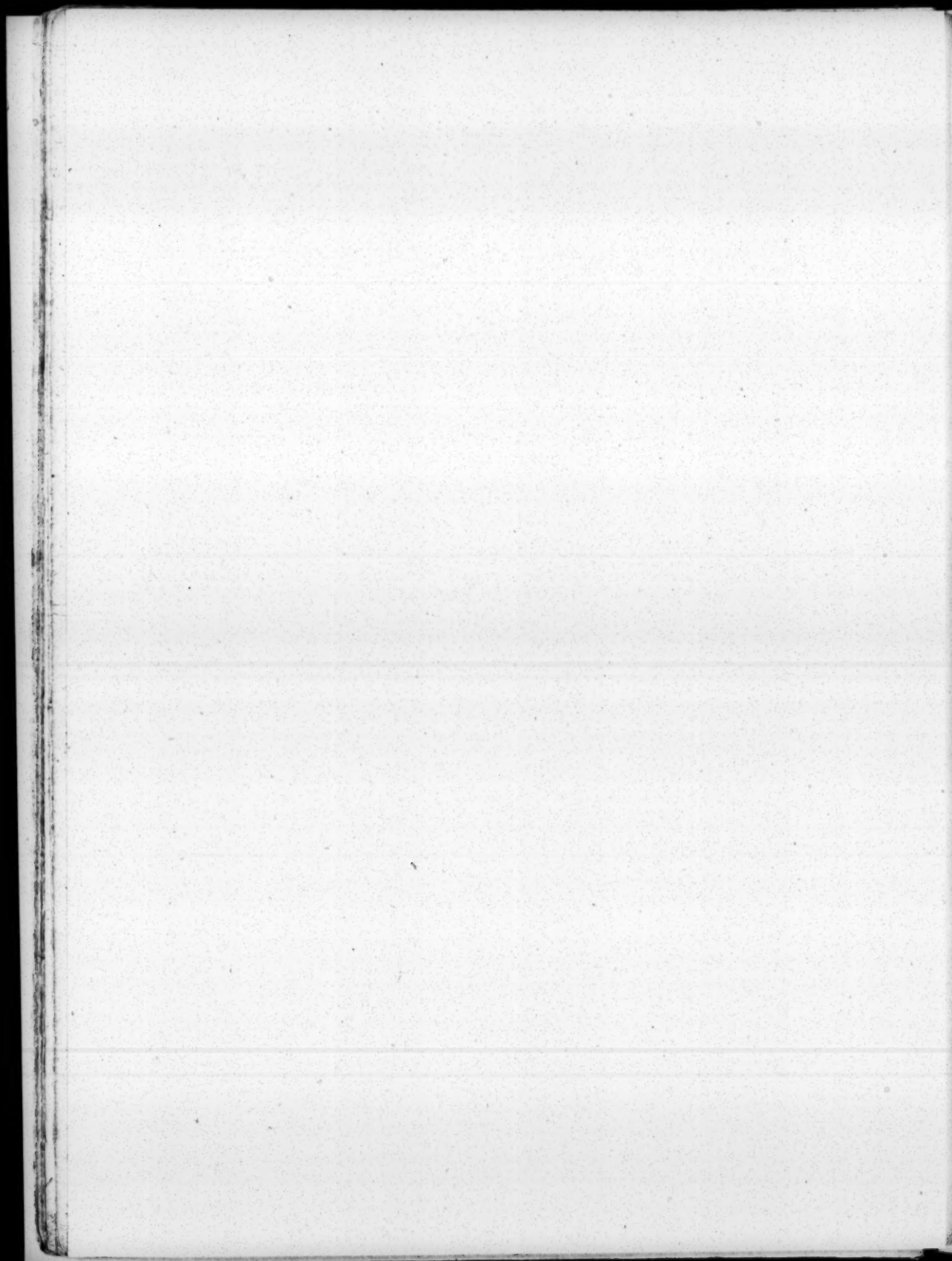
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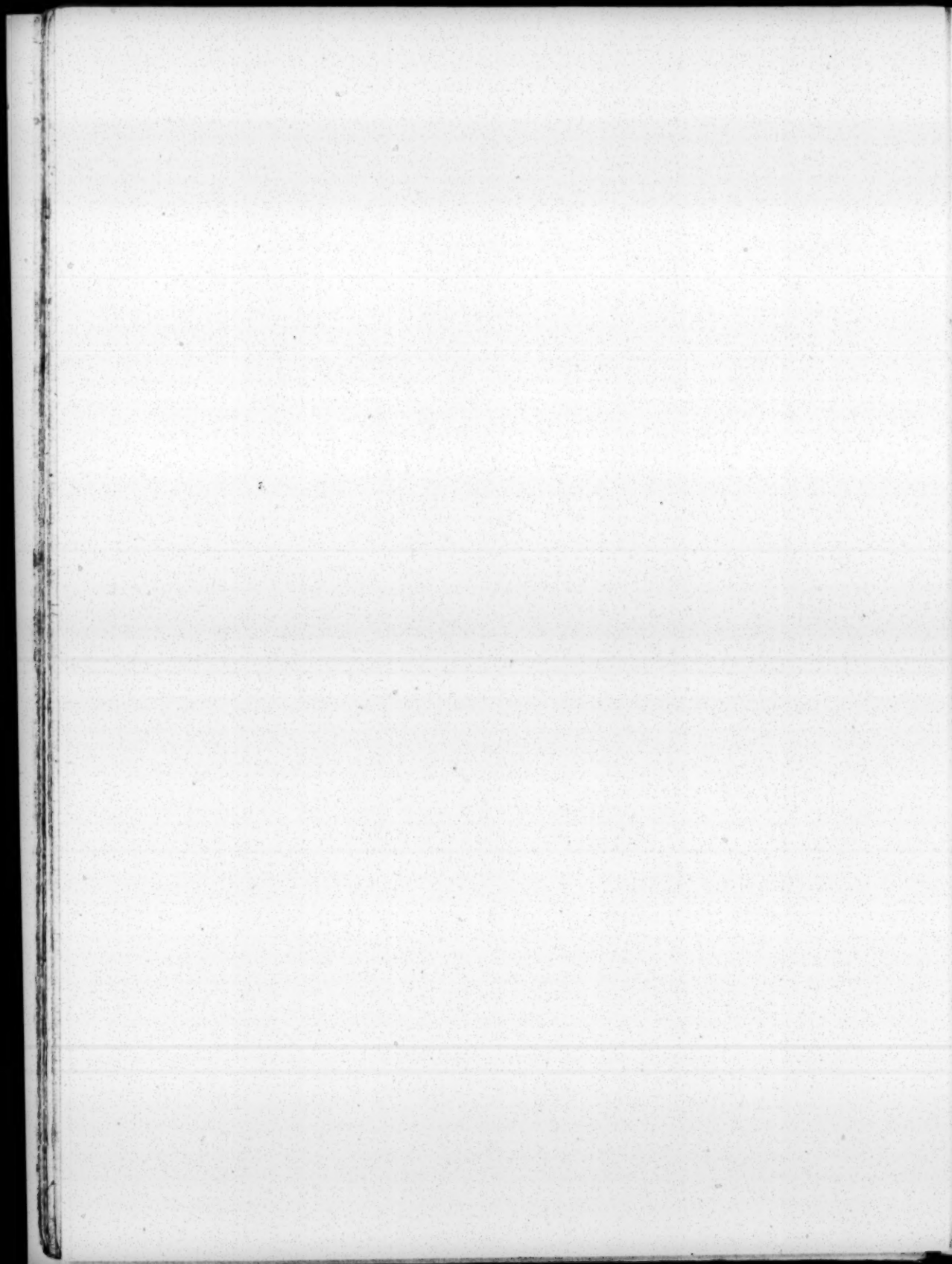
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Anonymous.

A True Discourse, of the Late Voyage made  
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the taking of three townes, Boarco, Tau-  
aredo and Fyguaro, with a castle and a  
priorie. Written by a gentleman that was  
in the voyage. Thomas Pavyer: London,  
1602. 40. 7 leaves.

Apparently the only copy known. Not in  
STC (etc). Entered in the Stationers'  
Register to Thomas Pavyer, 20 August 1602.  
Cox (Reference Guide to the Literature of  
Travel, 1935) and Taylor (Late Tudor  
Geography, 1934) both refer to the Sta-  
tioners' Register entry but have not seen  
the book itself. Boies Renrose in his  
work on the Sherley brothers and their  
travels (The Sherleian Odyssey, 1938)  
does not mention it though he speaks  
about the voyage and quotes a contemporary  
letter referring to it.





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The expedition took place in April, May and early June, 1602, and involved an initial force of some 900 troops in addition to the mariners. Two landings were made, one on the West coast of Portugal near the mouth of the Mondego river, some twenty miles from Coimbra, where they attacked the towns of Figueira da Foz, Suardos and Tavarres, and the other on the South coast of Spain between Cape St. Vincent and Cadiz, where they laid siege to the fortified town and seaport of Ayamonte at the mouth of the Guadiana river.

There are references to the incident in the State Papers but no account of what took place. This pamphlet provides a day-to-day narrative, giving such details as the names of the ships and their captains, the state of the weather, incidents on the voyage, as well as a full account of the military operations.

